

The First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 6-18

Qui regis Israel

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved

Said together

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

H 265

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25



Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

Written about 325 AD, this is the ancient statement of our faith

The Prayers of the People (Form III)

BCP 387

We pray together as the people of God

Confession & Absolution

BCP 360

We confess our sins and are reassured of our pardon

The Peace

We share the joy of the Good News!

The Liturgy of the Eucharist, sometimes called *the Mass*

Offertory

Prepare The Way of The Lord Isaiah 40:4-5

Rowan

Presentation of Gifts and Tithes

*To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, ever One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally*

From Hymn 63 vs. 5

Eucharistic Prayer “D”

BCP 372

Sanctus

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S129

Memorial Acclamation

Words in BCP, Musical Setting

H-S 141

The Lord’s Prayer

Traditional version, found on BCP 364

Fraction Anthem

H-S 152

The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

All baptized Christians, of any tradition, are welcome to receive the sacrament. Everyone, regardless of faith, is welcome to receive a blessing—simply cross your arms in front of you as the priest comes by. It is the tradition of this parish that 12 to 14 people at a time receive Communion at the altar rail, at which point all are dismissed together to return to their seats, and another group may move forward to the rail.

Gluten free wafers are available to those who request them.

Communion Hymns

<i>O saving Victim, open wide</i>	H 311
<i>Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord</i>	H 497
<i>Savior of the nations, come!</i>	H 54

Our Prayer after Communion BCP 366

Hymn *Come, Thou long expected Jesus* **H 66**

The Dismissal

We are dismissed from this gathering to go into the world to spread the Good News and the love of Christ! We respond to this instruction with: *Thanks be to God!*

Following our service will be Coffee Hour, hosted today by Jim and Chris Justice. This is a time for us to have fellowship, share our joys and sorrows, and get to know one another. It is very much an extension of the communal feast we share in the Holy Eucharist. Please join us!

The Altar Flowers are given today by
Barbara Sudduth in memory of loved ones.

The Advent Wreath is given by Mr. & Mrs. Marc Meachum in memory of
loved ones.

The Door Wreathes are given by Mr. Bill Davis
in memory of Mrs. Betsy Davis

The Chrismon Tree is given by Mr. & Mrs. Peter Richardson in memory of
loved ones.

Participants in Today's Liturgy

<u>Acolyte</u>	Becky Kersey			
<u>Chalicer</u>	Becky Kersey			Mike Lilly
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Becky Beckett	Patty Richardson	Linda Ammar	Chris Justice
<u>Nursery Help</u>	Louisa Bennitt			
<u>Vestry Member of the Month:</u>	Becky Beckett			

Birthdays This Week: Michael Richardson Carol Georgis William Smith

Last Sunday's Attendance

Please Keep the Following in Your Prayers

Dorene Dimes, Wanda Myers, Bonnie Taylor, Joe Sanders, Lee Puckett, Sr., Kerrigan Farmer, Mabeline & Elton Robinson, Bea Paine, Charlotte Woolwine, Lynn Burney, Marilyn Denney, Michelle Parks, Shirley Weaver, Will Calfee, Doug Bloomfield, Paul Anderson, Deane Family, Donna Fortune, Deanna Edwards, Elizabeth Kane, Jerry and Debbie, Nina and family, Marlene, Amy Melvin, Bob and Peggy Walk, Susan Jewell, John Kersey, Judy Anderson, Michelle Coleman, Martha Linkous, Sarah Irwin, Janet Slager, Kelly Cox, Ruth Metcalf, Mike McLeod, Maxine Stevenson, Dean Farmer, Bob Moore, Haddon Lazenby

Calendar of Events

Tuesday – December 24	Christmas Eve early service 5:00pm Christmas Eve late service 11:00pm
Sunday – December 29	Special service at Immanuel Lutheran 10:30am
Sunday – January 12	Annual Meeting after Church
Sunday – January 19	Altar Guild Meeting following Coffee Hour

Announcements:

Loose Offering: Any loose offering collected in December will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

Poinsettias for Christmas: If you have ordered poinsettias for Christmas, but not yet paid for them, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you!

Needing Reception Volunteers: There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for volunteers to provide things for the Christmas Eve Reception after the late service.

Nursery Help: Please consider signing up to assist with our Sunday morning nursery. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Sign-ups are now open for the remainder of this calendar year! For more information please see Fr. Chad or Elizabeth Clement.

Food Pantry Items Needed: Handout lists are available in Narthex for Food Pantry items being collected during the months of December thru January. We will accept monetary contributions also. See Patty Richardson or Mary Catherine Williams if you have any questions.

100th Anniversary Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church: On Christmas morning 1919 the original Christ Episcopal Church building burned to the ground in a devastating fire. Until the new church could be completed over a year and a half later our congregation worshiped with the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church down the street. To commemorate this special anniversary of neighborly hospitality and ecumenical work we will be worshipping together with Immanuel on Sunday, December 29, 2019 at a special service at 10:30 am. The Rt. Rev. Bob Humphrey, Lutheran Bishop of Virginia, and the Rt. Rev. Mike Klusmeyer, the Episcopal Bishop of West Virginia will be joining us for this celebration. A festive reception will follow in our own Rowley Hall. Please make plans to join us!

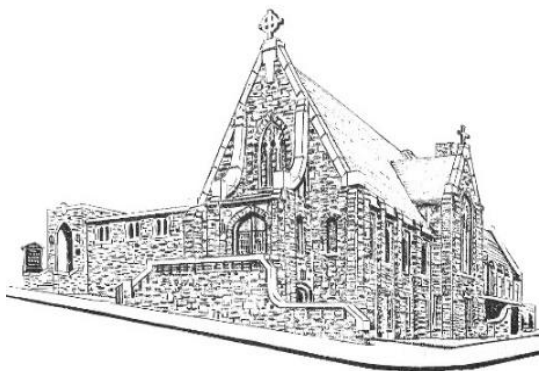
The Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church will be held on January 12, 2020. This will allow us to present full year 2019 accounting figures to everyone.

Altar Guild Meeting: There will be an altar guild meeting on Sunday, January 19th, following coffee hour.

Coffee Hour: If you'd like to provide the refreshments for this very important ministry at Christ Church, please call the office at 304-327-6861

Canterbury Club: There is a 2020 sign-up sheet in the narthex for Canterbury Club. Anyone that would like to host one you can sign up. Thanks to everyone who hosted a Canterbury Club in 2019. Mary Catherine Williams

Note: Any contributions you wish to be counted for in the year 2019 must be here, at the church, by noon on Thursday, December 26th.



Clergy, Staff, and Wardens of this Parish

the Rev. Chad Slater

Ms. Emma Bennett

Mr. Terry E. Whittington, Jr.

Mrs. Vanessa Hall

Mrs. Susan Jewell

Mrs. Becky Beckett

Mr. Tom Coughlan

Rector

Parish Administrator

Organist & Choirmaster

Sexton

Nursery Attendant

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



welcomes you